

# **RULES OF THE PRIZE "LOMBARDY IS RESEARCH"**

2026 EDITION

## **Article 1 (Establishing the Prize Lombardy is Research)**

1. As part of the Research Day in memory of Umberto Veronesi, pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 6, letter e) of Regional Law no. 29/2016, the Regional Government establishes the International Prize "Lombardy is Research" to publicly acknowledge the dedication and talent of individuals whose research, discoveries, and inventions have significantly contributed to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge.
2. The 2026 edition of the International Prize "Lombardy is Research" is dedicated to Life Sciences and will be awarded to scientists who have made a significant contribution on the theme of "Predictive medicine based on Artificial Intelligence and big data", with the goal of improving both life expectancy and quality of life. The Prize will focus on innovations or scientific, pharmacological, technological, or operational contributions that make it possible to estimate the individual risk for asymptomatic people to develop diseases, personalize preventive interventions and optimize the allocation of healthcare resources.

Specifically, the areas of interest include:

- Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and predictive models;
  - Genomics, epigenomics and predictive biomarkers;
  - Digital health and continuous monitoring.
3. The Prize is awarded to active scientists of any nationality. Each scientist may submit their own application, either individually or jointly with up to two colleagues who contributed to the same research. The application must clearly outline their significant contribution to research in the field of "Predictive medicine based on Artificial Intelligence and big data" and must also include a translational research project to further develop their work, to be conducted in collaboration with one or more public or private research institutions in Lombardy.
  4. The Prize is awarded by the President of the Region during the Research Day, with the presentation of a certificate stating the motivation for the award.
  5. The winner must collect the Prize in person by attending the award ceremony, which may include additional public dissemination events, including scientific discussions.
  6. The total Prize amount is €1 million, with 30% allocated to the winning scientist(s) and 70%

dedicated to the research organizations supporting the translational research project associated with the application. The 70% share of the prize may be allocated exclusively to research organizations based in Lombardy.

## **Article 2 (Research project associated with the application)**

1. Following the award of the Prize, the winner and the identified Lombardy-based research institutions must define and submit a complete research project, including objectives, description of planned activities, timeline, indicative budget, project team composition, and expected outcomes to enhance knowledge and understanding within the award theme. The project execution phase must have a maximum duration of two years.
2. The research institutions cannot, either directly or indirectly, use the Prize funds for commercial activities; they must allocate them exclusively to their non-economic institutional research activities. They must also commit to widely disseminating the research results through conferences, publications, open-access databases, or free or open-source software.
3. The research project, as described in paragraph 1, must be submitted to Regione Lombardia for approval, which will verify compliance with the provisions of this resolution. Upon approval, Regione Lombardia will formally commit, allocate and disburse the financial resources to the designated research institutions in a single installment.
4. Upon project completion, the winner and the collaborating research institutions must submit a technical-scientific report to Regione Lombardia detailing the research outcomes, the modalities for the use of allocated funds, achieved results, and the modes of dissemination to the broader scientific community.

## **Article 3 (The Jury)**

1. The winner is selected by an international Selection Jury, which operates as an extraordinary and temporary body.
2. The Jury consists of 15 members, identified through the Scopus database ([www.scopus.com](http://www.scopus.com)), which uniquely combines a comprehensive and curated database of abstracts and citations with enriched data and linked academic content, in which users can quickly find relevant and reliable research, identify experts, and access reliable data, metrics and analytics tools to support secure decisions on research strategy.
3. Jury members are selected within the most relevant thematic areas connected to the Prize theme, referred to in Article 1, Comma 2, namely: Biomedical Research, Clinical Medicine, Biology, ICT, Engineering, Public Health & Health Services.
4. Within the Scopus database, the members of the Jury are identified as those with the highest h-index for each of the thematic areas referred to in point 3. In particular, at least

10 members shall be selected from among researchers and scientists (Italian or non-Italian) affiliated with Italian research institutions.

5. The winners of the 2025 edition of the Prize are invited to be part of the Jury, with voting rights, in addition to the 15 members identified through the Scopus system.
6. Regione Lombardia ensures equal opportunities within the Selection Jury. To this end, the number of jurors belonging to the same gender may not exceed two thirds of the total.
7. The members of the Scopus system identified according to the criteria set out in points 3, 4 and 6 of this Article are invited to express their interest in being part of the Selection Jury by completing the online form available on the Open Innovation platform by the deadline of 15 June 2026. Researchers are selected in order of h-index, considering gender constraints, academic affiliation and thematic areas of expertise, until the Jury is fully constituted.
8. The Jury appoints a President from among its members and, for each meeting, draws up the minutes, to be transmitted to the competent Directorate General, signed by the President, after validation by all members of the body.
9. At the first convocation, the Jury is convened by the competent Director General. After the election of the President, the latter, where deemed necessary, provides for further convocations.
10. Grounds for incompatibility for the role of Jury member include having received convictions for offences against the Public Administration and being in a situation of conflict of interest with respect to the candidates under selection.

#### **Article 4** **Submission of Applications**

1. Applications for the Prize may be submitted by all scientists of any nationality who have a significant scientific output, evidenced by an h-index of at least 50 (in the case of joint applications, at least one scientist must have an h-index of at least 50), excluding the members of the Jury.
2. The application dossier must include the following sections:
  - a. Section A: Candidate profile (and of the co-author candidates of the submitted scientific contribution, up to a maximum of three)
    - i. Full curriculum vitae, including publications, patents, or relevant research outputs;
    - ii. Description of the contribution offered within the current scientific landscape;
    - iii. Retrospective analysis of the added value of the work and of its potential clinical, diagnostic, therapeutic or technological applications;
    - iv. Illustration of any discoveries made, where applicable, with supporting evidence (experimental data, publications, citations, etc.);

b. Section B: Translational Research Project

- i. Specific objectives, methodology, and timeline, proposed to be carried out in collaboration with one or more Lombardy-based research organizations in the event the Prize is awarded;
- ii. Planned collaboration modalities with the selected Lombardy-based research organizations
- iii. Plan for the use of the funds (euro 700,000) allocated exclusively to Lombardy-based research organizations;
- iv. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assess the progress and impact of the project.

c. Section C: Endorsement letter(s)

- i. At least one letter written by academic figures of recognized authority, explicitly referring to the research contribution made by the candidate(s) and the prospects for the future development of the research.

3. The subjects referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may submit only one application.
4. Applications must be submitted exclusively online on the regional Open Innovation platform at [www.openinnovation.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.openinnovation.regione.lombardia.it) from 2 March to 16 June 2026.
5. Third-party applications are not permitted.

## **Article 5**

### **Evaluation Criteria for Applications**

1. The "Lombardy is Research" Prize is awarded to candidates who have distinguished themselves in scientific research within the theme selected for the 2026 edition and who have made an innovative contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge. Research with a quantifiable impact within the specific topics outlined in Article 1, paragraph 2, will be considered.
2. Only original scientific contributions of high innovative value and scientific—and where applicable—economic or social impact will be considered. To ensure an objective and comparative evaluation of applications, the following selection and evaluation criteria will be used:
  - a. Candidate Profile: Significance of the contribution in the field of Life Sciences, originality; impact on the scientific community, and potential for advancing the state of the art.
  - b. Translational Research Project: Degree of innovation and transferability of the research into practical solutions; project quality, technical/scientific/instrumental capabilities of the involved research institutions.

3. The elements outlined in paragraph 2 must be highlighted in the application justification and will be evaluated by the Jury, which will select the winner through a voting process. Greater weight will be given to the candidate's profile.
4. The awarding procedure will be completed by 8 November 2026, on the occasion of the Research Day promoted by Regione Lombardia. The award ceremony will take place on 10 November 2026.

#### **Article 6** **Processing of Personal Data**

1. Within the Prize awarding procedure, Regione Lombardia provides specific privacy notices for the processing of personal data (pursuant to Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679) concerning the Prize candidates and the members of the Selection Jury, set out respectively in Annexes B and C to the act launching the Prize.

#### **Article 7** **Publication, Information, and Contacts**

1. A complete copy of this Regulation is published in the Official Bulletin of Regione Lombardia and on the Open Innovation platform.
2. Adequate dissemination and promotional actions will be undertaken through international channels, as well as through the Lombardy Delegation to the EU Commission in Brussels.
3. Any information regarding this Regulation can be requested by email at [preioricerca@regione.lombardia.it](mailto:preioricerca@regione.lombardia.it).